

Incidence and Mortality Rate Trends

The mortality rates for esophageal cancer are very similar to the incidence rates in the United States. Regardless of racial/ethnic group, men have higher incidence rates than women. The esophageal cancer incidence and mortality rates for African Americans have been higher than the rates for Whites. The incidence and death rates for African Americans have steadily declined; however, this downward trend is not observed for other racial/ethnic groups.

It is estimated that approximately \$446 million* is spent in the United States each year on treatment of esophageal cancer.

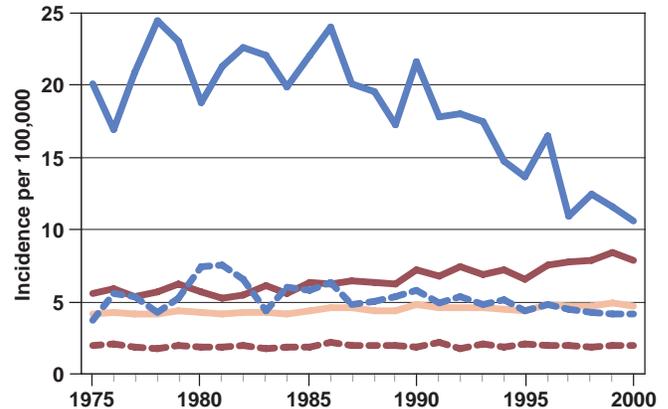
*In 1996 dollars, as determined by Brown, Riley, Schussler, and Etzioni and reported in the National Cancer Institute's *Cancer Progress Report - 2003 Update* at: <http://progressreport.cancer.gov>

Source for incidence and mortality data: Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program and the National Center for Health Statistics. Additional statistics and charts available at:

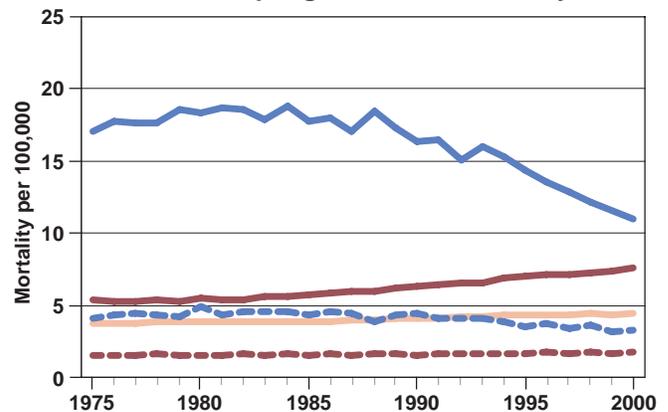
http://seer.cancer.gov/faststats/html/inc_esoph.html

http://seer.cancer.gov/faststats/html/mor_esoph.html

U.S. Esophageal Cancer Incidence



U.S. Esophageal Cancer Mortality



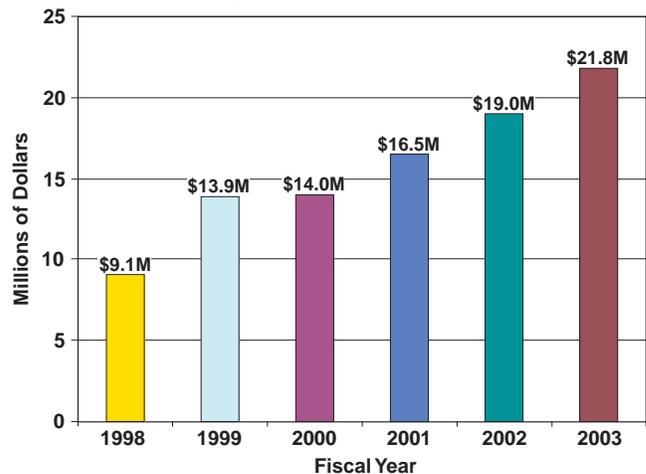
Legend:
— White Males — White Females — Overall Rate
— African American Males — African American Females

Trends in NCI Funding for Esophageal Cancer Research

The National Cancer Institute's (NCI's) investment in esophageal cancer research has increased from \$9.1 million in fiscal year 1998 to \$21.8 million in fiscal year 2003.

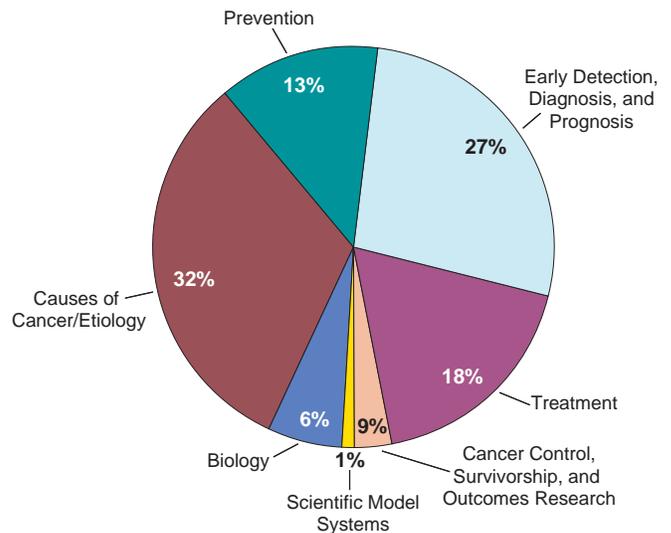
Source: NCI Financial Management Branch
<http://www3.cancer.gov/admin/fmb>

NCI Esophageal Cancer Research Investment



NCI Esophageal Cancer Research Portfolio

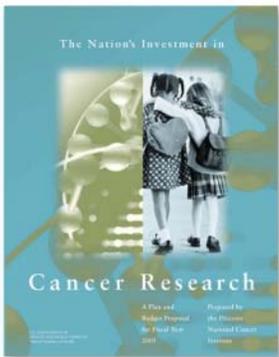
The pie chart shows the distribution of NCI esophageal cancer research dollars by scientific area for fiscal year 2002. Such portfolio analyses along with the recommendations of the Progress Review Groups (PRGs) are used to (1) identify research gaps, (2) develop strategic plans that will address future research needs, and (3) track and assess progress.



NCI Esophageal Cancer Research Portfolio*
Percentage of Total Dollars by Scientific Area
Fiscal Year 2002

* A description of the relevant research projects can be found at the NCI Cancer Research Portfolio website at <http://researchportfolio.cancer.gov>.

Examples of NCI Research Initiatives Relevant to Esophageal Cancer



- Four gastrointestinal cancer-specific **Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPOREs)** are moving results from the laboratory to the clinical setting. <http://spores.nci.nih.gov/gi/gi.html>
- The **Stomach/Esophageal Cancers PRG**, a panel of prominent scientists and patient advocates, assessed the state of the science and identified future research priorities for stomach and esophageal cancers. <http://prg.cancer.gov>
- NCI's intramural **Gastrointestinal Malignancies Faculty** brings together scientists throughout NCI to facilitate interactions among basic, epidemiological, translational, and clinical researchers promoting a community of investigators working together for the prevention, diagnosis, and cure of gastrointestinal cancers. <http://ccr.cancer.gov/faculties/faculty.asp?facid=156>
- **Clinical Trials** are actively recruiting esophageal cancer patients to test new treatments and treatment combinations. Additional trials are testing new approaches to prevention and diagnosis. http://www.cancer.gov/search/clinical_trials
- The **Esophageal Cancer Home Page** provides up-to-date information on esophageal cancer treatment, prevention, genetics, causes, screening, testing, and other topics. <http://cancer.gov/cancerinfo/types/esophageal>